

**VILLAGE OF NORTHFIELD  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
Minutes of November 28, 2006**

- I. **ROLL CALL:** Chair Richard Sutor, Trustees Samantha Baraw, Libby Hambleton (absent), Thomas McCarney, and Jim Wilson. Also present were Village Manager Nanci Allard and Larry Drown.

Chair Sutor called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

II. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (Scheduled):**

- a. **Larry Drown: Service Request.** Mr. Drown received a letter from Manager Allard regarding "his request for a new service." Mr. Drown wanted to clarify that he is not asking for a new request. Mr. Drown stated that he has asked for electricity for his property. He stated that there are poles that do not have the wires on them. He is concerned about the "new service." In 1986, there was a letter to the previous owner from the then Village Manager who did not have any problems with the service and stated that it would not cause hardship. Mr. Drown stated that he is now having problems with the right-of-way and the electricity. Mr. Drown stated he spoke to Green Mountain Power (GMP) and they had stated they had records that showed they had always provided power to that site. Mr. Drown stated that he was assured by Starr at GMP that he would have the power. Mr. Drown was advised by Manager Allard that he would have to contact the Central Vermont Railroad (CVRR) to request an easement. Mr. Drown would like this Board to recognize that he needs his service connected and would like the record to show the letter that he wrote regarding this situation to be added to the file. The right-of-way is written in his deed; Mr. Drown is not concerned with this. He is concerned with the electricity. Trustee McCarney was concerned as to why the lines were removed. He stated that he looked at the property and could tell that the pole was rather new (Mr. Drown asserts it was installed in 1991). Trustee McCarney is concerned as to why the lines were removed. If they were taken down because there was no one to use them during the upgrade, then we need to replace them. Mr. Drown states that none of the poles had a right of way. Manager Allard received an opinion from the Village Attorney that Mr. Drown needs to get the right of way from the CVRR. Trustee McCarney is concerned that our attorney does not have the complete set of facts. There was much concern from Trustees McCarney, Wilson, and Baraw on why Mr. Drown is responsible for requesting the right-of-way for Northfield Electric poles. The Trustees requested a written report on the right-of-way status for all poles and lines that NED uses to service the customers in that area from Wall St. to the end of the line extension, that being the furthestmost pole on the former Dupree saw mill site.

III. **ACTION ITEMS**

- a. **Approval of Minutes**
1. **November 14, 2006 (Regular Meeting).** Motion by Trustee Wilson, seconded by Trustee Baraw, to approve the minutes. **Motion passed 3-0-1, with Trustee McCarney abstaining.**
- b. **Approval of Bills**
1. **Warrant #11-07.** Motion by Trustee Wilson, seconded by Trustee McCarney, to approve Warrant #11-07 in the amount of \$33,666.54. **Motion passed 3-0-1, with Trustee McCarney abstaining due to an appearance of conflict of interest on one invoice.**

- c. **Village Tax Rate (Revised Homestead Education Tax).** Motion by Trustee McCarney, seconded by Trustee Wilson, to approve the total Village Tax Rate of homestead of \$2.3080. There was clarification made that this is an adjustment, not in addition to. **Motion passed 4-0-0.**
- d. **VPPSA Project 10.** The Village Special meeting authorized this Board to execute a business arrangement for a share of the project allocation up to 12%. There were two presentations included in the packets. Dr. Axelrod anticipated that by purchasing the 12%, we would be turning a positive cash flow. Motion by Trustee McCarney, seconded by Trustee Wilson, to take the voter-authorized amount of the 12% and authorize the Manager to execute the purchase with VPPSA. **Motion passed 4-0-0.**

#### IV. REPORTS

##### a. Village Manager

- 1. **New Personnel Policy.** Manager Allard stated that the VLCT had finished its legal review of the new policy and its recommendations have been incorporated in the version distributed to the Board this evening. The policy will need to be reviewed by the Management Committee, which will make its own recommendations to the Boards.

##### b. Committee Reports

- 1. **Merger Committee.** The Committee last met on November 20, 2006. The Committee agreed to add four (4) additional members and would like to draw these members from the supporters of the proposed Town Charter in order to incorporate their concerns. The next meeting will be Monday, December 18, 2006 at 5:00 p.m. in the Municipal Building.

##### c. Miscellaneous.

- 1. **Purchase of the Police Blazer.** Manager Allard is interested in seeing if this vehicle could be purchased by the Village for meter readings, etc. There is not an official proposal at this time.
- 2. **Department of Public Service (DPS).** The DPS has requested utilities to permit a voluntary bill back for excess costs for the task assigned to them by the Vermont Legislature to assess the opinion of Vermonters on energy issues. The Legislature allocated \$50,000 for this task. DPS has estimated that to achieve meaningful answers it will take \$650,000. DPS is asking the utilities to agree to be billed for this. Chair Suitor proposed that this Board consider a cap for the Northfield Electric Department (NED) of about \$3200, that being NED's share if all utilities participate. It is in the utilities' best interest to have a good study conducted. A formal proposal will be presented to the Board at a later date.

#### V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION (Unscheduled). None.

#### VI. ADJOURNMENT. The Board adjourned without objection.

The Board adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

*Samantha H. Baraw*

Samantha H. Baraw, Clerk

These minutes are subject to approval at the next regular meeting.